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AR-D-0370

file

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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Class. CHANGED TO: ☐ ES ☐ S ☒ C

DDA Memo, 4 March 1952

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1111

Date: 22 03 74 By: 025

24 March 1952

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM TO: Deputy Director (Plans)

FROM : Assistant Deputy Director, Plans (Administration)

SUBJECT : OSO Staff Study Concerning Personnel Ceiling

The OSO staff study is, in effect, simply a request to be excepted from the application of ceilings, and in this request is contained the proposal that an enlarged T/O constitute the base or framework upon which the expression of the OSO mission be placed. I wish to make these comments:

1. I have one hundred percent sympathy with, and agreement in, the DCI's objective, to serve which he imposed a flat ceiling determination. This is the only way to stop the varying and unsatisfactory growth manifestations which we have been seeing. Doubtless, the Director contemplates subsequent gradual release and specific controls to fit the rehabilitated mission conception of the Agency. Also, without doubt, the Director recognizes that the ceiling decision hits the offices equally and arbitrarily, and soon would produce a grievous distortion. It is to control release from flat ceiling in the interests of priority of Agency mission that these comments are directed.

2. It is basic that we remember the OSO mission as an integral part of the over-all Agency mission, as opposed to the operations activities of OPC. These activities can be turned off or on to fit changing world situations and any modification of United States Government policy. The OSO mission, on the other hand, is a long term programming effort, looking toward progressive development which gets the United States out of its short pants in a permanent activity. It must not suffer from growth distortions of OPC.

3. The OSO growth has been most moderate, controlled and completely compatible with a sensible and progressive development. It is suggested that this growth, as shown in the attached paper, is really not incompatible at all with the Director's objective.

4. The present authorized T/O of OSO (departmental and overseas) is [REDACTED] and it is responsive only to the major portion of the OSO mission as of February 1951.

The present day statement of mission, as expressed in the T/O is _____. (to be determined)

* Summary as of 8 February 1952, and these figures exclude military and contract personnel

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The existing ceiling on OSO (departmental and overseas)
is [REDACTED].

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The personnel on board (inclusive of those in process)
is, [REDACTED].

Compare this with OSO's present statement of capacity,
excerpted as follows:

".....Clandestine intelligence capabilities
(of OSO) are so limited, when compared with over-
all intelligence requirements, that it is no
longer a question of choosing between good opera-
tions and bad operations, or between priority targets
and non-essentials..... OSO does not now pos-
sess, and cannot reasonably hope to develop in the
near future, sufficient competence, maturity and
facilities to mount a major operational effect in
more than a few priority areas....."

5. A T/O represents, at any given time, a statement of per-
sonnel needs and organization set-up to discharge a mission. It
is an essential descriptive base to lay on any and all preparations
for competence to ensure discharge of mission. The establishment
of it does not prohibit limited action as to speed of growth, if
desirable, but without it such action is unintelligent and is not
responsive to number, type or character of over-all mission or
parts of the over-all mission.

6. The problem posed by the OSO paper is a basic one, as
suggested in the preceding, but also, in effect, asks for further
establishment of Agency priorities within the over-all mission.

7. Therefore, my interpretation of the OSO paper is that it
asks for three things:

- A. Continuance of its moderately progressive per-
sonnel improvement on the base that such is not
incompatible with the Director's ceiling imposi-
tion.
- B. The need for today's T/O to be recognized and set.
- C. Determination of Agency priority of mission.

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military and contract personnel

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8. I wholeheartedly support the OSO position and recommend appropriate action by DD/P and DD/A to this end.



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Attachment
AR-D-0085

Approved by DD/P on 28 mar '52
(EA-2-2308) and approved
in principle by DD/A verbally
to me on 2 apr '52. DD/A
requests OSO to draw its
T.O. requirement before he
goes to the DCI for
DD/P ceiling except [redacted] in '52

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